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Sen. Laura Toy encourages residents to celebrate flag month

LANSING – You may have heard of Flag Day, but in Michigan June 14th through July 14th is designated as flag month, said state Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District.

“During this month each year, which includes our nation’s Independence Day, residents are encouraged to appropriately display our nation’s flag,” Sen. Toy said. “We are all proud to be Americans. We know the many freedoms and blessings this brings. There is no better way to celebrate our love of country than to fly the red, white, and blue during this time.”

Legislation formally recognizing June 14th through July 14th as the official flag month of the state was enacted in 1998.

Flag Day was first celebrated June 14, 1877. This marked the 100th anniversary of the day the Second Continental Congress adopted the familiar red and white striped flag with white stars in a blue field to represent the union.

“Not only is the flag a symbol of pride, but it is also a tribute to those who have fought and died under its colors throughout our nation’s history,” said Sen. Toy, who chairs the Senate Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee. “We continue to be the land of the free only because we are the home of the brave.”

Those who wish to display the stars and stripes throughout flag month can contact Sen. Toy’s office to obtain a free copy of “How to Fly the American Flag.” The two-sided card contains guidelines on how to appropriately handle and display the American flag, as well as a copy of the Pledge of Allegiance and the lyrics to “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Residents also may purchase a United States or Michigan flag which has been flown over the state Capitol in Lansing. Each flag comes with a certificate of authenticity.

If requested in advance, flags can be flown on a specific date in honor of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.

For additional information, including pricing, interested individuals may contact Sen. Toy’s office at (517) 373-1707. To obtain a free “How to Fly the American Flag” card, residents can call this number or send an e-mail with their name and address and the subject “Flag Card” to senltoy@senate.michigan.gov.

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